Congratulations on the release of the "Alice in the Country of Diamonds" Anthology Collection!

Thank you for inviting me to contribute my work.

There was a certain bird living on a certain island.
Long ago...
STARE
...WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
YOU!
THAT CAN'T BE VERY INTER-ESTING.

The majority of them were hunted down.
However, due to human meddling...
IT'S JUST FOR FUN.
IT BALANCES OUT MY SCARY FACE.
ooo
PET
WHAT ABOUT THAT DECORATION ON YOUR COAT? ISN'T THAT A LITTLE TOO CUTE?
BUT IT IS! I WAS THINKING, "WHY WEAR SOMETHING LIKE A TIE IF HE'S JUST HEADING INTO A FIGHT?"
I'M THE SORT OF GUY WHO PUTS MANNERS FIRST. ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO ADD?
RUFFLE
DON'T LAUGH! YOU'LL HURT MY FEELINGS.
RUFFLE
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! IT JUST SOUNDS LIKE YOU DECIDED TO SAY WHATEVER CAME TO MIND!

Because of
human interference,
within merely a century or so,
those birds could
no longer be
found.

IS IT FUN TO ASK ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I MEAN... WOULDN'T YOU WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR LOVER?
A-Alright...
BUT, ONE LAST THING...
Don't say embarrassing things like that!
SLIDE...

Since the sighting of one last solitary bird was confirmed.

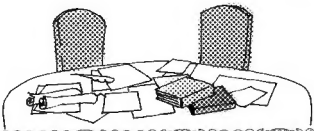
Many long months and years have passed...

NO WAY!
CREAK
LET ME LOOK CLOSER!
FINE. BUT...
IT'S SPECIAL MAKEUP. LOOKS GOOD, RIGHT?
WHY DOES THIS SCAR REMAIN? IN THIS WORLD, DON'T THESE THINGS DISAPPEAR WHEN THE TIME CHANGES?
EVEN IF YOU LOOK THIS CLOSELY, I DON'T THINK YOU'LL UNDERSTAND.
TUG

Scholars conducted an inquiry regarding those birds.
WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT ME? ARE YOU WRITING A BOOK ON THE "ECOLOGY OF THE DODO BIRD"?
TELL ME...
Ah
MM...
HEHEH... YOU KNOW, IN MY ORIGINAL WORLD,
THERE WAS SOMETHING CALLED THE "CURSE OF THE DODO".
WHAT KIND OF CURSE WAS IT?
WELL, IT'S SAID THAT ALL THE SCIENTISTS WHO SET OUT TO INVESTIGATE THE DODO BIRD DIED MYSTERIOUSLY.

Is possibly a warning from the Dodo bird itself.

...And that occurrence...



MY JOB IS TO KEEP ALL OF THESE THINGS FROM CRASHING DOWN.

DON'T FRET OVER ME, WORRY ABOUT YOUR OWN MATTERS.

OF COURSE I'M GOING TO WORRY!!!

HEAD OF THE GRAVE-KEEPERS, CURATOR OF THE MUSEUM, BOSS OF THE MAFIA...

...YEAH.

WHY ARE YOU MAKING THAT FACE? SURELY YOU'RE NOT COMPARING IT TO YOURSELF?

IT'S ALREADY BEEN DECIDED THAT I WILL DIE.

YOU'RE A HUMAN, NOT A DODO BIRD!

AND I WORRY ABOUT WHETHER PEOPLE ARE MAKING PASSES AT YOU!

THAT MAKES ME SOUND LIKE A CLUMSY CHILD...

AND IF NOT THAT, I WORRY ABOUT YOU GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP, OR FALLING DOWN SOMEWHERE NEARBY, OR ACCIDENTALLY STARTING A FIRE WHILE COOKING, THINGS LIKE THAT...

NO WAY! THERE COULD BE A RAID AT ANY TIME.

YOU CAN RELAX WHEN YOU'RE HERE THOUGH, RIGHT?

SERIOUS

MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT'S JUST MY EGO THAT MAKES ME WANT TO LEAVE BEHIND SOME MARK OF MY EXISTENCE.

WELL, TO BE HONEST, THAT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING

That bird was clearly remembered.
Far from being forgotten ...
OF-OF COURSE I DO BELIEVE IN YOU!
BUT SINCE THERE ARE PEOPLE ALWAYS DROPPING BY... I MEAN...
THANK YOU. I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU THOUGH, BUT I'M NOT NEARLY THAT POPULAR.
Ah...
LIAR. EVERYONE LOVES YOU!
...I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT I'M NOT NEARLY THAT POPULAR.
And whether or not some lovely woman will drop in... To say hi...
mumble mumble
I WORRY ABOUT IF YOU'RE HURT, OR IF YOU'RE GOING TO PASS OUT FROM OVERWORK, OR IF YOU'RE EATING LIKE YOU SHOULD...
MORE THAN THAT, WHAT ABOUT ME? SINCE WE'RE ON THE TOPIC OF WORRYING...
Do you really think that...?

But
have they
truly become
extinct?

BUT I'M GOING TO ANYWAYS, AND YOU KNOW IT!
"DON'T WORRY" ...AT LEAST, I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT, BUT-
ESPECIALLY CONCERNING HER... IT'S DIFFERENT.
THANKS FOR WHAT?!
YEAH. THIS TIME I'LL JUST BE EXPRESSING MY THANKS TO A FEW PEOPLE, SO...
IS THIS "WORK"?
BUT I'VE BEGUN TO RECONSIDER.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT, SINCE I HAVE TO DO MY BEST JUST TO GET BY
GOING SO SOON?
I KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD SAY, BUT...
THERE ISN'T ENOUGH TIME. I CAN'T WASTE WHAT I HAVE. ...THAT'S WHAT I'VE COME TO BELIEVE.

IN TRUTH, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THEY CONTINUE TO LIVE, EVEN NOW.
YES...
I FEEL ALIVE NOW, IN THIS DREAM WITH YOU!
I REMEMBER.
...TAKE CARE.
ALTHOUGH I'M A DYING MAN...

And forever more.
Now...
...IN THAT CASE, IT WOULD BE NICE TO STAY IN THIS DREAM A WHILE LONGER.
Heh...
THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.
SHE IS MY REASON TO LIVE.
END

Mad Hatter Scans

Country of Dia ~ Jericho Story by Job

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